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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending July 7, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apricots: Apricots from California and Washington are moving in carlots at the rate of 30 to 40 cars daily. At present, they are being taken from the warmer interior sections and are mainly of the Royal, Tilton and Blenheim varieties. To date this season 921 cars have been shipped from these states, compared with 363 cars last year.

Peaches: Peaches are moving by car in greater amounts as the season advances and as additional freestone varieties mature. Thus far this season Western Region states have moved by rail 131 cars, compared with 175 cars last year for the same period. Total rail shipments for the United States to date are 2934 cars, compared with 1650 last year. 2360 cars have originated in Georgia.

Cherries: Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Washington are now shipping cherries at the rate of approximately 40 cars daily, with a total carlot movement for this season to date of 1550 cars, compared with 1520 cars for the same period last year. Utah has just started shipping cherries, while Washington has shipped 557 cars thus far, compared with 761 cars last season.

Peas: Due to weather conditions, peas in the valley sections of Oregon have dried out and harvestings are very light. Peas from the coast sections are being received and are commanding wholesale prices of 12 to 14 cents per pound.

Potatoes: Out of total U. S. shipments of new potatoes this season of 47,313 cars, Kern County, California, has shipped 24,686 cars. This is 5,609 cars more than Kern County shipped during its entire season last year.

F.O.B. prices in the Wasco-Shafter district have bettered the former ceiling, closing the week at $2.50 to $2.60 per hundred for U. S. No. 1A and Extras.

Onions: The following table is set forth to show the range in top prices paid for U. S. No. 1 onions on some of the leading wholesale markets during the past week, basis 50 lb. bags.

	Yellow Bermuda	White Wax	Reds	Yellow Globes	Swt. Spanish
Chicago	$2.15		($1.50	$2.00	
New York	$2.65 to 3.00		(1.75	2.75	$2.75 (3")
Portland	-----	$2.40	----	----	-----
Los Angeles	$1.00-$1.25	$1.00-1.25	($1.00 ($1.25	----	$1.10-$1.15
San Francisco	$1.55-$1.60	$1.75-2.00	($1.50 ($1.75	$1.60-$1.75	------

Onions now moving into the markets are coming from Arizona, California, New Jersey, New Mexico, Texas and Washington.

Amendment No. 17 to MPR 271 Revised, effective July 10th, establishes new f o b prices for 1944 onions in 50 pound bags, for the period of July 15 to August 15. The prices for Western Region states are as follows: Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Arizona and Oregon, counties of Wallowa, Union, Grant, Baker, Karney and Malheur, $1.30; and for the Oregon counties of Klamath, Lake, Cook and Deschutes the price is $1.95, for all other Oregon counties the price is $1.85 and for all other states $1.95. Differentials are provided for the period after August 15, also the same differentials on white onions three inches and larger as appeared in the previous regulation.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Total U. S. production of butter for June is estimated to be about 9 percent less than the June 1943 production of 202,195,000 pounds.

Ration points appear to be the subject of some concern among butter ratailers. There is some feeling that the point value should be raised to at least 16 points per pound to help build up supplies to meet the demand later in August, when it is expected that production will be much lower than at present.

Civilian demand in both the East and the West has continued to increase, and in some instances retailers are again introducing limited sales to consumers.

Eggs: Consumer demand for eggs is continuing to increase, while supplies have decreased from last week's amounts. Friday's wholesale prices on Pacific Coast markets were 39 to 43½ cents per dozen for Grade A Large eggs and 21 to 36 cents per dozen for Grade A Smalls. It is interesting to note that for Western Markets San Francisco reported the week's high price on large eggs, and Portland the low, while Los Angeles reported the high and San Francisco the low price on Grade A Small eggs.

Poultry: On the west coast, consumer demand for dressed poultry has continued to increase. As egg supplies decreased, supplies of leghorn hens moving to poultry dressers and wholesale markets also dropped, and in some markets dressers reported difficulty in keeping up with demand. Prices paid to producers on fryers and broilers have advanced to ceiling levels.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: Because of prospects for a good wheat crop, prices on some markets dropped during the week and are near the loan values. Portland's market, although irregular, dropped only ½ cent per bushel on Hard Red Winter wheat, and advanced as much as 1½ cents on most classes.

Commodity Credit Corporation has instructed its agents in some markets to buy number one grades of wheat at 6 cents above the loan price.

Hops: The Hop Control Board reports the 1944 hop acreage in the United States will be the largest of any year since 1935. The principal producing states of Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho will have in production this year 36,934 acres, compared with ten year average of 32,390 acres. 32,600 acres were grown in 1943 and 34,600 acres in 1942. Federal-State Market News Service reports that growers have disposed of their 1943 stocks of hops and have contracted for delivery of most of their prospective 1944 supplies and a large portion of later crops, up to and including the 1948 harvest.

Barley: Short supplies of corn in California have resulted in large amounts of barley going to feeders with the market remaining strong at $2.45 to $2.55 per cwt for No. 2 Bright Western testing 44 pounds per bushel.

In Kansas, stem rust is reported as doing considerable damage to barley and the crop there is later in maturing than farther east.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts of cattle this week on the twelve principal markets were 147,900 head, about equal to the number received during the same week last year, but 23 percent below the number received last week. Receipts were also less in western markets, and demand for meats was up. Top prices during the week, on the western markets for grass fed steers were $14.00 to $14.50 in San Francisco, $13.50 to $14.50 in Portland, $15.00 in Los Angeles, and $14.50 to $15.00 in Ogden. These prices were up slightly over those for last week.

Hogs: Hog receipts of 331,700 head for the past week were slightly below those of a year ago in the twelve principal markets, and 27 percent below those of the previous week. In western markets, demand was good and receipts somewhat less than the week previous. Top prices paid for support-weight hogs were $13.50 in Ogden and Salt Lake, $14.85 in San Francisco, $14.00 in North Portland, and $15.00 in Los Angeles.

Sheep: The 139,300 head of sheep received in the twelve markets this week was considerably below the number received a year ago and 39 percent below last week. In Western markets sheep continued to move in large numbers, but less than last week. Prices and demand were good. Top prices paid for lambs were $15.00 in Los Angeles, $15.00 in Portland, $14.90 in Ogden and $15.25 in San Francisco.

COTTON

Prices moved up again this week and reached a new high of 22.08 cents per pound for middling 15/16 inch cotton, the highest on the ten markets since 1928.

Commodity Credit Corporation, as of June 30 and in line with recent legislation, has raised its general sales program price from 22.32 cents to 22.85 cents per pound for middling 15/16 inch cotton, Standard Density, stored in group B mill areas of the Carolinas.

Ginning has commenced in the extreme southern portion of Texas. In other areas rain has been beneficial and the crop is progressing satisfactorily.

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